

EVALUATING AND STRENGTHENING THE MENTOR-CHILD CONNECTION

This session explores the Family and Youth Service Bureau's new online Relationship Quality Instrument as a scientifically-tested case management tool that will help you (a) identify, and then cultivate, mentor-child relationships that are more likely to endure and (b) build self efficacy and academic performance for the children in your program.

Presenter: Stan Chappell, Director, Division of Research and Evaluation, Family and Youth Services Bureau

Stan Chappell is the director of research and evaluation for the Family and Youth Services Bureau, a component of the Administration for Children and Families in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). His current responsibilities include research and evaluation, strategic planning, partnership development, data collection and analysis, and systems development. In 2003, he was senior advisor for the White House Task Force for Disadvantaged Youth, and he was general manager of the 2001 National Youth Summit. Chappell came to the youth field in 1999 from previous HHS positions that included responsibility for implementing the Government Performance and Results Act in the Administration for Children and Families. He has helped develop and administer multi-agency executive information systems and served on numerous interagency and intergovernmental committees and workgroups. He is a 1994–95 Fellow of the Council on Excellence in Government. Chappell graduated in 1971 as an English major with honors from Columbia University. He lives in Vienna, Virginia, with his wife, Susan McCullough, and their daughter, Julie, 17.

Presenter: Dr. Jean Rhodes, Professor of Psychology, University of Massachusetts Boston

Jean E. Rhodes, professor of psychology at the University of Massachusetts Boston, completed her Ph.D. in clinical-community psychology at DePaul University and her clinical internship at the University of Chicago School of Medicine. She has researched both natural and assigned mentoring relationships within different social contexts, and has published widely in developmental and community psychology journals. Professor Rhodes is a fellow of the American Psychological Association and the Society for Community Research and Action. She is a distinguished fellow of the William T. Grant Foundation and a member of the Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Transitions to Adulthood. She sits on the board of directors of the MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership, the advisory boards of many mentoring and policy organizations, and the editorial boards of several journals in community and adolescent psychology. Her book, *Stand by Me: The Risks and Rewards of Mentoring Today's Youth* (Harvard University Press), was recently issued in paperback. She is currently working on a co-authored book about ethical considerations in volunteer youth work (Harvard University Press).

Inspire. Connect. Impact.

Presenter: Catherine Dun Rappaport, Associate, Abt Associates

Catherine Dun Rappaport, an associate at Abt Associates, specializes in assessments of programs geared to help at-risk youth cultivate positive relationships with peers and adults, and avoid risk behaviors. Dun Rappaport is the project director both for Abt Associates' Evaluation Design Study of the Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program and for the Benchmarking Study of the Mentoring of Children Program, both of which are being conducted for HHS. She also is leading the descriptive study component of the Evaluation of the Student-based Mentoring Program for the U.S. Department of Education. Like the Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program, the Student-based Mentoring Program aims to improve behavioral, academic, and social outcomes for at-risk youth by providing them with mentors. Dun Rappaport's experience in mentoring is not limited to evaluation. Prior to her tenure at Abt Associates, she founded and directed the Connecticut Chapter of Everybody Wins, a school-based mentoring effort that targets at-risk elementary students. She also served on the board of directors for Everybody Wins Boston for several years. Ms. Dun Rappaport received her master's degree in public policy from Harvard University. She has been with Abt Associates for five years.

Presenter: Gary Frederick, Lead Designer on OLDC, Synectics

Gary Frederick has worked as a Synectics contractor at the Administration for Children and Families for the last nine years and has been the software development technical lead for a number of applications, including OLDC and SSI. He holds an MS from the University of Maryland in computer science management and a BA from Mt. Vernon Nazarene College in psychology and mathematics.

Presenter: Bruce McCracken, Program Director on ACF Project, Synectics

Bruce has thirty-five years' experience in the information technology field: four years in the U.S. Air Force; sixteen years in commercial industry; and fifteen years in government consulting. His commercial experience includes a variety of management positions, such as vice president of information services. His last government consulting position consisted of directing an information technology project of more than 250 personnel. He has a BS degree in business management from the University of Maryland, a graduate certificate in information technology leadership from the University of Virginia, and an MS in project management from the University of Wisconsin. Bruce joined Synectics in November 2005 and was assigned program director for a contract for the Administration of Children and Families in HHS.

Presenter: Anna-Lisa Walters, Training and Support, Synectics

Anna-Lisa Walters is a graduate of Clark University and has over ten years training experience. Of those ten years, three have been spent working specifically with the On-Line Data Collection (OLDC) system. She has participated in multiple conferences for the Administration for Children and Families, conducting sessions on OLDC. Additionally, Ms. Walters is the co-creator of the OLDC E-xperience, an interactive web-based training tutorial.